

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
STATEWIDE UNIFIED RESPONSE GROUP
(BHHSURG)**

COVID-19 UPDATE

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Call Topics and Focus

- Announcement: Webinar time change to 12:00 PM
- Presenters:
 - **Catherine Betts, JD, Deputy Director**
Department of Human Services

Child Abuse and Neglect During COVID-19
 - **Angelina Mercado, Executive Director**
Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

UNSAFE AT HOME: How to Help Someone Experiencing Domestic Violence During COVID-19

Child Abuse and Neglect During COVID-19

Catherine Betts, JD, Deputy Director
Department of Human Services



Child Abuse and Neglect During COVID-19

CATHY BETTS, JD

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Overview of Department of Human Services

DHS Guiding Principles

Article IX, Section 3 of the Hawai'i State Constitution

"The State shall have the power to provide financial assistance, medical assistance and social services for persons who are found to be in need of and are eligible for such assistance and services as provided by law."



DHS Guiding Principles: Hawaii Revised Statutes 5-7.56 “Aloha Spirit”

(a) “Aloha Spirit” is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others[.]”

-AUNTY PILAHI PAKI

Section 5-7.56: Hawaii Revised Statutes,
“Aloha Spirit”



'Ohana Nui: An integrated Multigenerational Approach to Reduce Intergenerational Poverty

- refocus the department's efforts to provide available resources and support,
- reducing the time a child and family spends in poverty
- stabilizing the child's basic needs and environment to enhance their ability to learn

- improving all recipients' economic security, and ultimately reducing intergenerational poverty in Hawai'i.
- to use an integrated and multigenerational service delivery approach to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits, consistent with the nationally recognized best practices

- administer programs through an integrated and multigenerational approach designed to improve the social well-being, economic security, and productivity of the people of the State.
- to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence upon public benefits

WE ARE DHS

- Serves 1 in 4 Hawai'i Residents
- \$3.6 billion operating budget
- 84 offices statewide
- 4 divisions
- 2 attached agencies
- 2 attached commissions
- 6 staff offices
- 2,400 positions
- Multi-generational staff

What is child abuse and/or neglect?

- Legal Definition found in HRS 350-1
- Includes “acts or omissions”
- Described as harm, risk for child abuse and neglect, or threatened harm to a child
- Includes: physical abuse or neglect, medical neglect, psychological abuse or neglect, inadequate care or supervision, sexual abuse or child sex or labor trafficking, giving a child illegal drugs/alcohol
- Being without housing, as a singular factor, is not considered abuse or neglect absent other safety issues

Reporting and Mandated Reporting Basics

- Any person who believes that a child has been or may be abused and/or neglected can report their concerns to Child Welfare Services and the police department
- Mandated Reporters defined under HRS 350-1.1 (shown in next slide)
- Failure to report as a mandated reporter is a petty misdemeanor
- When in doubt, call the hotline(s)

- (1) Any licensed or registered professional of the healing arts or any health-related occupation who examines, attends, treats, or provides other professional or specialized services, including but not limited to physicians, including physicians in training, psychologists, dentists, nurses, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, pharmacists, and other health-related professionals;
- (2) Employees or officers of any public or private school;
- (3) Employees or officers of any public or private agency or institution, or other individuals, providing social, medical, hospital, or mental health services, including financial assistance;
- (4) Employees or officers of any law enforcement agency, including but not limited to the courts, police departments, department of public safety, correctional institutions, and parole or probation offices;
- (5) Individual providers of child care, or employees or officers of any licensed or registered child care facility, foster home, or similar institution;
- (6) Medical examiners or coroners; and
- (7) Employees of any public or private agency providing recreational or sports activities.



COVID-19 Child Abuse and Neglect Considerations for Providers

- Impact of stay at home order/school and child care center closure: most frequent mandated reporters are not seeing children as often (i.e. teachers and hospital staff)
- If domestic violence is involved, victim parent will likely not feel safe to take child(ren) outside of the home for care, batterer may likely use the child(ren) to maintain power and control, children as victim witnesses to the abuse do not have their normal social connections or potential “safe place” to go to
- Increased need for providers to be able to check in with parents regarding financial, economic, relationship stressors and provide support
- Providers should be using all technological means to check in with their clients and, if working with children, ensure you are able to physically see them and also emotionally check in
- Recognize that children’s increased time online means increased risk of exploitation and abuse, especially for children living in poverty who may be exploited by promises of food, shelter, money
- May not feel the full weight of this pandemic until well after the state “re-opens”: expect that your clientele will be dealing with stress, anxiety, trauma
- Social safety net and prevention efforts must remain intact in order to effectively deal with the aftermath

Re-envisioning Post Covid-19 Supports for Families: How Can We Respond to Ensure Family Wellness?

- Will need to address economic and financial stressors, increased substance abuse, increased domestic violence, PTSD, and other stressors and vulnerabilities
- Expand public-private partnerships focused on supporting families and caregivers
- Expand behavioral health response to children as they return to schools and child care sites, know the signs and what to look for
- Advocate for pro-working family supports like: paid sick leave, paid family leave, universal child care, access to health care, food security, ability to access education and job supports
- “Economy of well-being”: resist the urge to return to the old “normal” as our old economy marginalized many of our most vulnerable communities and rendered them more at risk of abuse, neglect, substance abuse, domestic violence. Our renewed focus must center these communities rather than treat them as the fringe/“problem” communities



CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
808-832-5300 OR
(TOLL FREE) 1-888-380-3088.



CHILD TRAFFICKING
808-832-1999 OR
(TOLL FREE) 1-888-398-1188.



ADULT ABUSE OR NEGLECT:
808-832-5115

Resources and Hotlines

Thank you! We're in this together!
Cathy Betts
cbetts@dhs.Hawaii.gov



UNSAFE AT HOME: How to Help Someone Experiencing Domestic Violence During COVID-19

Angelina Mercado, Executive Director
Hawai'i Coalition Against Domestic Violence

hscadv



HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

UNSAFE AT HOME: How to Help Someone Experiencing Domestic Violence During Covid-19

How Prevalent is Intimate Partner Violence?

1 in 4 US Women experienced violence by a partner at some point in her life
1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted in college
1 in 5 tweens know a victim of dating violence
2 out of 3 children are exposed to trauma and violence

61% of bisexual women AND 37% of bisexual men experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

44% of lesbian women and 26% of gay men experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Of transgender individuals, 34.6% reported lifetime physical abuse by a partner and **64%** reported experiencing sexual assault.

2x - women with disabilities regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or class are assaulted, raped and abused at twice the rate of women without disabilities. (Sobsey, D. 1994)

2019 Census Count by National Network to End Domestic Violence, in Hawaii 578 survivors served in one day

21.6% of Native Hawaiian respondents reported ever experiencing physical abuse by a current or former intimate partner, compared to 14.1% of other Pacific Islander, 13.1% of Caucasian, 6.6% of Black, and 5.9% of Filipino respondents. (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Year 2013)

Domestic Abuse – Statutory Definition

Abuse of a Household Member HRS 586-1

Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the threat of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, extreme psychological abuse or malicious property damage between family or household members...

Public Health Definition of Intimate Partner Violence

- An ongoing, often escalating, **pattern of behavior** intended to obtain and maintain power & control in an intimate relationship
- Include a broader range of controlling behaviors that impact health including:
 - emotional abuse
 - **social isolation**
 - stalking
 - intimidation and threats



Dynamics of IPV

- Using extreme and controlling behavior or jealousy
- **Isolation**
- Using social status or privilege
- Physical Abuse
- Threats
- Verbal Abuse
- Sexual Assault
- Reproductive Coercion
- Emotional/Psychological Abuse

The goal of IPV is Power and Control.

Controlling Behaviors

LGBTQ+ Survivors

- Threats to “out” their partner to family, friends or employer
- Use medical information – HIV related diagnosis
- Withholding transgender hormone therapy medication

Immigrant Survivors

- Threats of deportation
- Taking kids outside the U.S.
- Using immigration process
- Forbidding English classes
- Holding on to important documents

Survivors with Disabilities

- Withholds, damages or breaks assistive devices
- Threatens to harm or harms their service animal
- Steals or withholds their Social Security Disability check

5x-8x


The presence of FIREARMS increases the likelihood of death by 5 to 8 times and are a sign of escalating danger.

- Abusers use firearms in order to threaten:
 - A survivor, their children, friends or families
 - Pets
 - Against him/herself (abuser)
 - As a threat to keep a survivor from seeking help



Power & Control: COVID-19

- **Abusive partners may withhold:**
 - necessary items, such as hand sanitizer or disinfectants;
 - insurance cards, threaten to cancel insurance, or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they need it;
 - stimulus payments; and
 - share misinformation about the pandemic to control or frighten survivors, or to prevent them from seeking appropriate medical attention if they have symptoms,
- Survivors may also fear entering shelter because of being in close quarters with groups of people.
- Survivors who are older or have chronic heart or lung conditions may be at increased risk in public places where they would typically get support, like shelters, counseling centers, or courthouses.
- Travel restrictions may impact a survivor's escape or safety plan – it may not be safe for them to use public transportation or to fly.
- An abusive partner may feel more justified and escalate their isolation tactics.



Why might a
survivor choose
not to disclose
abuse?

- Shame, judgment, stigma
- Fear, threats
- Fear of systems/police involvement
- Afraid children can be taken away
- Not knowing what is going to happen with the information
- Lack of awareness of victim status and rights
- Lack of knowledge of U.S. laws
- Limited English Proficiency

Restraining Orders

TRO vs Protection Orders

- Temporary Protection Order (TRO)
- Court order granted by a judge, up to 180 days “Ex Parte” or until TRO hearing “Order to Show Cause”
- Purpose it to protect survivors from a abuse
- Can be against anyone who has abused or threatened to abuse
 - Abuse can be (as defined in HRS 586-1):
 - Physical, extreme psychological, property damage or threats of abuse
- Can include a “kick-out” order which tells the abuser they must move out of the home.
- Can also award temporary child custody. TRO does not award child support or permanent child custody.
- Can include any **firearms**

Protection orders are longer term

How to Prepare

Evidence Collection for Petition

- Events of abuse and dates and physical evidence such as medical records, photos and police reports
- If not included in the petition, it is may not be allowed to be brought up in the hearing
- Evidence Collection tools such as DocuSAFE: Documentation and Evidence Collection App
- **Consider if devices are being monitored by abusers, which could put survivor in greater danger**

Add Documentation

Documentation Type

Which kind of documentation are you adding:

- Messaging
- Social Media
- Email
- Captured Photo
- Captured Video
- Other



Enforcing TROs

- Have the police serve the 180 Day TRO on an abuser to have it count as “legal service” by the courts.
- A TRO is enforceable once it has been received by the abuser and serves as notice to appear at an “Order to Show Cause” hearing for the long term Protective Order

Be persistent

- Call the police every day until you have been notified that the order has been served

Safety Planning

- When a TRO has been served, a survivors’ danger is heightened. Safety planning with an advocate is critical.




Getting Help With TROs



- Courthouses, in Hawai`i are open and can file in person (best to go in the morning)
 - Family Court - if related to the abuser, lived with abuser in the past, have a child with the abuser, or dated the abuser
 - District Court – neighbor, co-work or does not fit in Family Court categories
- Women's shelters (on all islands)
- Advocacy programs such as DVAC
- Volunteer legal services offices – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Private attorney
- *Pro se litigant* self representation

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Redefining Safety for Survivors

- Constantly check in with people
 - Leaving or ending an abusive relationship comes with the highest likelihood for homicide or acute victimization.
 - Staying might be the safest choice.
 - DV advocates are experts in short and long-term safety planning.
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- A series of yellow dashed lines are located in the bottom right corner of the slide, forming a curved, upward-pointing shape.

Advocates are the Experts

- Domestic violence and sexual assault programs have vast experiences working with survivors of violence.
- Advocates assist and empower survivors who have experienced IPV to think and act to increase personal safety while assessing the risks to their actions.
- Advocates connect patients to additional services:
 - Housing
 - Legal advocacy
 - Support groups/counseling



champion, a
advocate. no
supporter,
promoter
-resp



Tips for helping a friend experiencing domestic abuse during COVID-19.



Ask them how they would prefer to connect

"How would you prefer we connect?"



Stay in touch and be creative

"Let's have a call with the kids?" or, "Let's play a game online."



Be supportive and believe in them

"You are not alone. I care about you, and I'm here for you, no matter what."



Help them think through how to stay safe

"Let's develop a safety plan."



Help them find a local domestic violence helpline

"Here is the contact information for that grocery store I told you about."

Local Domestic Violence Advocacy Partners



24 hr. Shelter Lines:
841-0822 (O`ahu)
959-8864 (East Hawai`i)
322-7233 (West Hawai`i)



24 hr. Shelter Line:
526-2200 (O`ahu)



24 hr. Shelter Line:
579-9581 (Maui)
563-0216 (Lana`i)



24 hr. Shelter Line:
245-6362 (Kaua`i)



24 hr. Crisis Line:
Call: (808) 531-3771
Toll-free (800) 690-6200
Text: (605) 956-5680
Chat:

<https://domesticviolenceactioncenter.org/>



24hr. Shelter Line:
567-6888 (Moloka`i)



Phone Intake Services Monday-Friday
9:00am-11:30am & 1:00pm-3:30pm
808-536-4302 (Oahu)
1-800-499-4302 (Neighbor Islands)

Local Sexual Assault Resources

OAHU – SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

Hotline: (808) 524-7273, Phone: (808) 535-7600

HAWAII – YWCA Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS)

Hilo: Hotline: (808) 935-0677, Phone: (808) 961-3877

Kona: Hotline: (808) 935-0677, Phone: (808) 334-1624 – voicemail

KAUAI – YWCA SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT PROGRAM

Hotline: (808) 245-4144, Phone: (808) 245-5959

MAUI COUNTY – CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS)

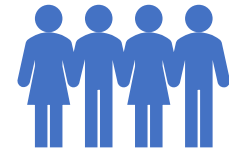
Maui: Hotline: (808) 873-8624

Toll-Free Hotline: (866) 443-5702

Phone: (808) 877-6888

Molokai: Toll-Free Hotline: (866) 443-5702

Lanai: Toll-Free Hotline: (866) 443-5702



SATC Services During COVID-19

While the SATC office at Harbor Court is closed to comply with the stay-at-home order, all services remain available.

24-Hour Hotline

- Our hotline is available 24/7. If you, or anyone you know, needs help involving a sexual assault, please call 524-7273. The crisis counselor will be able to assist you in getting the kind of help needed. Or, you can reach out to us via www.satchawaii.org. Our contact us page is checked daily.

Medical-Legal Services

- Sexual assault exams are accessible by calling the hotline, and take place at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. Precautions are in place to ensure screening, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and disinfection measures. It is important for you to know that medical care and evidence collection do not have to be delayed or compromised because of COVID-19.

Crisis and Clinical Services:

- Whether you're an existing client of SATC, or you're in need of services for the first time, crisis counseling sessions, psychotherapy sessions, and case management services are available by phone and/or through telehealth.
- Crisis support is available at the time of forensic interviews with the police.

National Resources

National Domestic Violence

<http://www.thehotline.org/>

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

TTY: 1-800-787-3224

Live chat 24/7/365

En Español: 12pm-6pm Hora Central

National Sexual Assault

<https://www.rainn.org/>

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

The Trevor Project

www.thetrevorproject.org

866-488-7386 LGBTQ Youth

Trans Lifeline 1-877-565-8860

www.translifeline.org/

Mahalo!

Go to the Hawai`i State Coalition Against
Domestic Violence website for additional
information and resources

<https://www.hscadv.org/>



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#HealthyWeLiveHawaii **#SocialDistancing**
#FlattenTheCurve **#TogetherWeCan**

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